

The claim on your website that this program is not yet videotaped is ludicrous. It is for sale online. The website contains a "poll" that offers, among other responses, "Sinclair Broadcasting should air Stolen Honor as intended." (emphasis mine)

If, indeed, you are still composing the final edition (one source says the program is 90 minutes long and another says it is 42.), I have a suggestion: Use the 42 minute version as a part of a program that includes John Kerry's testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee played in full beforehand. Let your viewers see all of what the man really said, as opposed to the characterizations and sound bites offered from so many quarters, and then let them watch what those Americans held as prisoners have to say and evaluate it for themselves.

Labeling this program a "special news event featuring the topic of Americans held as prisoners of war in Vietnam." is thin and transparent cover for highly specific, viewpoint-oriented, biased programming offered at a critical time considered optimum for influencing a national election. The program does not feature the topic of "Americans held as prisoners of war in Vietnam" any more than "Fahrenheit 9/11" features the topic of "parents who are upset at the government." "Stolen Honor" is a presentation of the beliefs and opinions expressed by a very small group of Americans who were held as prisoners. It promotes divisiveness, helps to assure that whatever wounds remain are, in fact "Wounds That Never Heal," and, I believe, inflicts additional wounds. There are no other reasons to present this material in this way at this time.

Ordering your outlets to suspend regular programming in order to present the "event" instead of offering it as an option reveals that there is much more than public service at work here as motivation. I believe you will violate your public trust by using your licensed access to the public airways to promote political views mislabeled as "news event(s)." The proper name for this is "propaganda."

I'm going to route these remarks to the FCC, do what I can to log them into your licensing comments and send them to the news team at our local Sinclair-owned station, which I shall continue not to watch. If I send them to sponsors who advertise on your local station I will route additional copies to you.

Sincerely,

John Gillmore